

Dear Council Members and Mayor,

This letter reflects the views of the following downtown businesses:

Business Bengals Address 227 S. 6th ST.  
Position owner/operator Printed Name Jack + Julie Rader  
Signature Jack + Julie Rader

Business SHILOH BAR & GRILL Address 402 EAST BROADWAY  
Position OWNER / OPERATOR Printed Name TOM J. ATKINSON  
Signature Tom J. Atkinson

Business bleu RWB Address 29 South 8th Street  
Position owner/operator Printed Name TRAVIS TUCKER  
Signature [Signature]

Business PRIME Address 131 S. 10th  
Position OWNER / OPERATOR Printed Name Chris Thompson  
Signature [Signature]

Business Boone Tavern Address 811 E. Walnut  
Position owner Printed Name DICK WALLS  
Signature [Signature]

Business Shakespear Pizzeria Address 225 3rd St  
Position owner Printed Name Stacy Lewis  
Signature [Signature]

Business Fieldhouse / Wilkes Address 1107 & 1109 E. Broadway  
Position CEO / owner Printed Name Lance A. Morrow  
Signature [Signature]

Business The Rome Address 114 S 9th St  
Position owner / gm Printed Name Dean Montgomery  
Signature [Signature]

Business Bangkok Gardens Address 811 Cherry St.  
Position owner / operator Printed Name John Pham  
Signature [Signature]

Business International Cafe' Address 26 S. Nine St.  
Position owner manager Printed Name Elizabeth Hernandez  
Signature [Signature]

Business Campos Bar Grill Address 304 S. 9th St.  
Position OWNER Printed Name Chris Flood  
Signature [Signature]

Business Room 38 RESTAURANT + LOUNGE Address 38 NORTH 8TH  
Position OWNER/OPERATOR Printed Name Billy Giordano  
Signature [Signature]

Business Lakota Coffee Co Address 24 S. Ninth St  
Position owner Printed Name SKIP DUCHARME  
Signature [Signature]

Business Coley's Address 15 S. 6th St.  
Position owner Printed Name Brian Coley  
Signature [Signature]

Business The Wine Cellar + BISTRO Address 505 Cherry St.  
Position CO-OWNER Printed Name Sarah + Craig Cyr  
Signature [Signature]

Business Casablanca Address 501 ELM ST  
Position owner Printed Name Aziz EL-Tayash  
Signature [Signature]

Business Upper Crust Address 904 Elm Street, Ste. 108  
Position Owner Printed Name Adam G.  
Signature [Signature]

Business TROPICAL LIQUEURS Address 515 E. BROADWAY  
Position OWNER Printed Name ALAN DODDS  
Signature [Signature]

Business Anthony's Italian Restaurant Address 700 E. Broadway  
Position owner/operator Printed Name Tony Willenborg  
Signature [Signature]

Business Picklemans Address 1104 E Broadway  
Position General Manager Printed Name Ryan Ewing  
Signature [Signature]

Business ADDISON'S Address 709 CHERRY ST.  
Position OWNER Printed Name Jeremy Brown  
Signature [Signature]

June 16, 2011

We are writing you regarding the Summer Fest and Blue Note events on 9<sup>th</sup> Street downtown. Most of us are very supportive of the concert events in general because they are a great draw for downtown Columbia during the really slow weekdays of the summer. With that said, we have several concerns about the negative effect these events can have on our businesses. While most of us agree that the concerts can be good for downtown, we feel it's only fair that we have at least a small say in this matter. More specifically, we would like to suggest just a couple of compromises that would greatly help the businesses operating during the hours of the events so that everyone can do well.

Usually the concert events on 9<sup>th</sup> Street have been on Wednesday evenings. We believe this is a great day to hold these concerts because they bring people downtown on an otherwise slow night. However, this year the first three events were approved for weekend nights, which for most downtown businesses include Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. The problem many of us are running into is that these weekend nights can already be really busy for us—even in the summer—so the concert events begin to be viewed more as competition than as a benefit. As an example, last year when a concert event was held on a Friday night, many of us actually saw our business decrease because the event drew away some of our customers. Plus, with all the normal hustle and bustle on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays downtown, the added confusion can cause a real headache for many businesses adjacent to the 9<sup>th</sup> Street events since the street must be shut down so early in the morning on the day of a concert.

Last year three concerts were held in the fall semester when the students had come back to town. According to conversations with Richard King, concert organizer, he is planning on holding events in the fall again this year. This is another area we feel a sensible compromise can be reached. For all downtown businesses, the increased crowds downtown in the fall semester are our bread and butter. For many of us, the concert events overflowing into the fall semester have been harmful to our sales. Our compromise would be to request that the concert organizers not push any events into the fall semester (which we consider to begin on the weekend before the first day of classes at Mizzou).

The nice benefit the summer events provide for downtown businesses is that they draw people downtown in the slow days of the summer when the City can really use some extra visibility. Last year concert organizers completely skipped from July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 25<sup>th</sup> (when the fall semester began). The planned fall events for this year could reasonably be moved into this four week period of the summer. Since many of us see a negative impact on our sales when the 9<sup>th</sup> Street concerts are held in the fall semester, doesn't it make the most sense to hold the events in the "off period" of the summer when downtown could use some extra excitement?

All of us want to stress that we feel it's important to foster a vibrant downtown. We simply would like to see just two compromises that will help reduce any negative impact the concerts can have on local downtown businesses operating during the hours of the concerts.

To summarize, we would really appreciate the Council 1) approve these events only on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday nights and 2) not allow any concerts to overflow into the fall semester (beginning the weekend before classes commence at Mizzou) when we really don't need the extra competition.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

(Please note: This list contains only locally owned businesses which operate during the hours of the concert events. Most retail businesses are closed during the hours of the concerts and therefore were not included.)

Contact:

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Cc: Richard King, The Blue Note